## Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 03449 231644Z ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 /070 W ------060709 240133Z /66

R 231624Z JUN 77 FM AMEMBASSY RABAT TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2300

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DEPT ALSO PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAID MO

SUBJECT: PL-480 TITLE I WHEAT-SITREP ON MOROCCAN HARVEST

- 1. LOCAL HARVEST CONTINUES TO FALL EVEN BELOW EARLIER PESSIMISTIC ESTIMATES, WITH TOTAL WHEAT HARVEST NOW SEEN AT LITTLE MORE THAN 1M MT DURUM AND BREAD WHEAT, AND REQUIRED IMPORTS AT 1.6M MT, TOPPING 1975 RECORD BY SOME 300 THOUSAND METRIC TONS--SEE RABAT MO-7028 OF JUNE 16. COUNTRY TEAM RECOMMENDS THAT ISC ACTION ON GOM REQUEST BE TAKEN WITHOUT DELAY SO THAT WHEAT SHIPMENTS MAY BEGIN ASAP, IN LINE WITH OUR ASSUMPTION THAT SUPPLY PERIOD FOR NEXT AGREEMENT WILL BE U.S. FISCAL YEAR 1977, THE END OF WHICH IS BUT THREE MONTHS DISTANT.
- 2. MOROCCO'S PORTS ARE NOW WORKING AT NEAR CAPACITY AND GOM IS ALREADY PLANNING WHEAT IMPORTS BEYOND US FY 77, AS IT MUST, TO SCHEDULE PORTS EFFICIENTLY. U.S. ASSISTANCE THROUGH PL-480 WILL THUS BE OF MORE VALUE IF GIVEN EARLY, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF INTRINSIC NEED, BUT TO PERMIT MAKING DELIVERY PLANS TO AVOID INTERFERING WITH OTHER WHEAT PURCHASES.
- 3. WHILE WE ARE NOT IN POSITION TO ASSESS OTHER COUNTRY NEEDS, COUNTRY TEAM BELIEVES SIGNIFICANTLY GREATER THAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANTICIPATED DETERIORATION IN GRAINS OUTLOOK REINFORCES EARLIER RECOMMENDATION OF MINIMUM 100,000 MT, AND WE HOPE WASHINGTON AGENCIES WILL CAREFULLY RECONSIDER LOWER AMOUNT PROVISIONALLY ALLOCATED.

MOFFAT

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## Message Attributes

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